



Data Points

RESULTS FROM THE 1997 CALIFORNIA WOMEN'S HEALTH SURVEY

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among women in California. Among women, it accounts for nearly one in every three new invasive cancers diagnosed and is second only to lung cancer as a leading cause of cancer-related deaths. Screening for breast cancer at least every two years can detect cancer at its earliest, most treatable stage, reducing breast cancer deaths by as much as 30%. Breast cancer screening has been shown to be most effective for women age 40 and above.

The 1997 California Women's Health Survey asked women if they have ever had a mammogram, how long it had been since their last mammogram, and whether they had their last

mammogram as part of a routine checkup or because of breast problems. Women who had had breast cancer or were under age 40 were excluded from this analysis. Additional data were available from the 1987, 1990, and 1993 Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) which asked California women these same questions in earlier years.

In 1997:

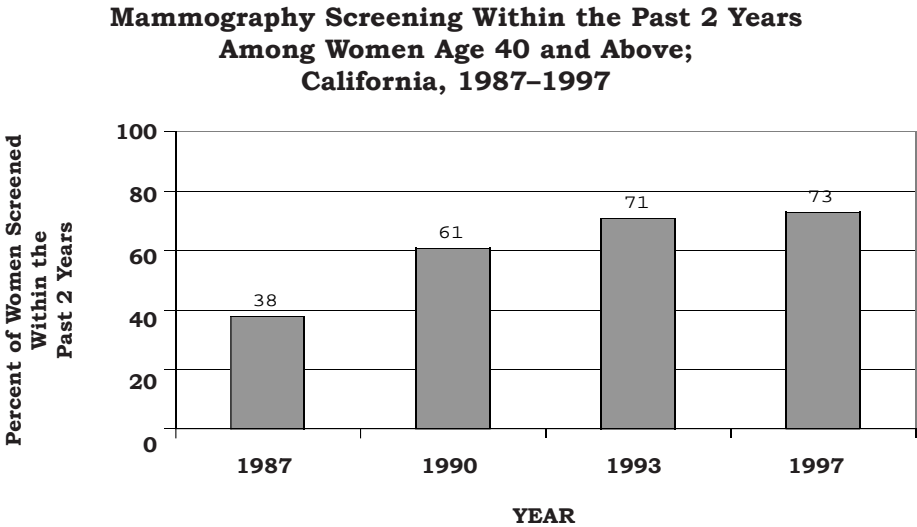
- 73% of women reported having had a mammogram within the past two years.
- Among women who had ever had a mammogram, 93% had one as part of a routine checkup, while 7% had one because of breast problems.

TRENDS IN MAMMOGRAPHY SCREENING AMONG WOMEN AGE 40 AND ABOVE; CALIFORNIA, 1997

Cancer Control Branch

Public Health Message:

Over the past decade, California women have shown a dramatic increase in the percentage of women who reported that they had had a mammogram within the past 2 years from 38% in 1987 to 73% in 1997. While the percentage of women who had a mammogram within the past two years has increased, there remain 27% who have not had a recent mammogram.



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